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LEE & HAYES, PLLC 601 W. RIVERSIDE AVENUE SUITE 1400 SPOKANE, WA 99201			EXAMINER ROSSELL, MICHAEL	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

lhptoms@leehayes.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/783,380

Applicant(s)

MATTHEWS ET AL.

Examiner

MICHAEL ROSWELL

Art Unit

2173

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 14-22 and 24-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12, 14-22 and 24-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-06)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to the Request for Continued Examination filed 29 October 2009.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1, 7, 12, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The claims disclose the limitation "gradually displaying elimination of non-selected selectable logon controls", or similar. No support in the specification exists for the inclusion of such a limitation. The most relevant passage found by the examiner is the specification at ¶ 0020, which merely states that "the selectable logon controls that are not selected can be eliminated from the display utilizing any number of methods and techniques to visually animate the transition". Claims depending from claims 1, 7, 12, and 22 are similarly rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-6, 11, 12, 14-20, and 30-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

As to claims 1-6, 12, and 14-20, these claims are non-statutory for at least the reason that they are not tangibly embodied (i.e. stored on a computer readable storage medium which does not include a carrier wave or other form of transmission medium). Additionally, a collection of fields (i.e. Graphical User Interface), per se, is non-functional descriptive material, thus it is considered to be merely an abstract idea and is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being a non-patentable abstract idea.

As to claims 11 and 30-36, these claims are non-statutory for at least the reason that they are embodied in a non-tangible medium (i.e. a carrier signal. See the specification at ¶ 0053).

Claims depending from claims 1-6, 11, 12, 14-20, and 30-36 are similarly rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-12, 14-22, and 24-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rathbone. (Windows XP for Dummies, 2001, Published by Hungry Minds, Inc.), in view of Straub et al (US Patent 5,905,492), hereinafter Straub, further in view of Hilbert et al. (US Publication 2003/0088570 A1), hereinafter Hilbert, further in view of Grossman et al (US Patent 5,564,004), hereinafter Grossman, and further in view of Malamud et al (US Patent 5,694,561), hereinafter Malamud.

The applied reference (Straub) has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention "by another"; (2) a showing of a date of invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This rejection might also be overcome by showing that the reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(l)(1) and § 706.02(l)(2).

Claims 1 and 7: Rathbone discloses a user interface and method on a computer system comprising: a logon page configured to display one or more selectable logon controls each having a corresponding user-identifiable indicator (Figure 4-1).

Rathbone further teaches a desktop page configured to display in response to a selectable logon control being selected, the desktop page further configured to display user selectable controls in one or more regions of the desktop page and display the user identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control (taught as the icon and name of the user "Andy Rathbone", displayed in the start menu of the desktop).

However, Rathbone fails to explicitly teach the desktop page being further configured to persistently display the user identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control from display of the logon page to display of the desktop page.

Straub teaches a system for updating themes for an operating system, such as Windows XP as disclosed by Rathbone. Furthermore, Straub teaches a desktop page being further configured to persistently display the user identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control (taught as the ability to customize [i.e. "further configure"] a desktop background to display any graphic image selected by a user, which would include said user-identifiable indicator, at col. 2, lines 20-29). By configuring the background to display the user-identifiable indicator, Straub thus teaches the claimed persistent display of said indicator from display of the logon page to display of the desktop page.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Rathbone and Straub before him to customize the desktop background of Rathbone with the user-identifiable indicator through the customization technique of Straub. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of enhancing a user's experience through increased customization. See Straub, col. 2, lines 20-22.

However, Rathbone and Straub fail to explicitly teach a transition from the logon screen to the desktop page, the transition configured to display after the selectable logon control has been selected but prior to display of the desktop page, the transition further configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control uninterrupted throughout the transition and to display elimination of non-selected selectable logon controls, thereby enhancing a computing session by providing seamless continuity when a user logs onto the computing system.

Hilbert teaches a system for providing a logon to a multi-user device similar to that of Rathbone and Straub. Furthermore, Hilbert teaches a transition from a logon screen (Fig. 3) to the desktop page, the transition configured to display after the selectable logon control has been selected but prior to display of the desktop page, the transition further configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control uninterrupted throughout the transition, thereby enhancing a computing session by providing seamless continuity when a user logs onto the computing system (as can be seen at Fig. 4 and ¶ 0076). The examiner further contends that as Rathbone shows a plurality of selectable logon controls (Fig. 4-1), in combination with the single user display on a transition as in Hilbert (Figs. 3 and 4) one would necessarily obtain a transition page that displays elimination of non-selected selectable logon controls.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Rathbone, Straub and Hilbert before him at the time the invention was made to modify the logon and desktop of Rathbone and Straub to include the desktop page and transition page of Hilbert. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of further personalizing a user interface. See Hilbert, ¶ 0007.

Rathbone, Straub, and Hilbert fail to explicitly teach wherein the displayed elimination of non-selected selectable logon controls is a gradual elimination. Grossman teaches a system for displaying selectable controls similar to that of Rathbone, Straub, and Hilbert. Furthermore, Grossman teaches the gradual elimination of such controls (taught as the fading of icons which have not been recently used from the display, as disclosed at col. 9, line 43 through col. 10, line 48).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Rathbone, Straub, Hilbert, and Grossman before him at the time the invention was

made to modify the interface of Rathbone, Straub, and Hilbert to include the icon fading of Grossman, in order to obtain an interface wherein the displayed elimination of non-selected selectable logon controls is a gradual elimination. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of "cleaning up" the computer display. See Grossman, col. 9, lines 43-48.

Rathbone, Straub, Hilbert and Grossman fail to explicitly teach a start control displayed on the desktop page that is user-selectable to initiate that multiple applications start together at approximately a same time, the start control being configured to enable the user to select groups of applications to start together that were executing when a previous computing session was discontinued, that are often selected for use by the user, that were recently selected for use by the user, and that are most used by the user.

Malamud teaches a system for manipulating applications and windows utilizing display controls similar to that of Rathbone, Straub, Hilbert, and Grossman. Furthermore, Malamud teaches a user-selectable control capable of starting a plurality of applications together (taught as the use of project groups containing a plurality of windows of applications, at col. 2, lines 43-60, the project folder icon and window being capable of instantiating all project windows at approximately the same time, at seen through the "Open Project" function of col. 4, lines 22-37). Malamud further allows for the configuration of a project in a variety of ways, as a user sees fit, through the customization of project groups as seen in col. 6, line 35 through col. 7, line 43. Such customization allows for the configuration of groups of applications as claimed, such as programs "that were executing when a previous computing session was discontinued, that are often selected for use by the user, that were recently selected for use by the user, and that are most used by the user".

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Rathbone, Straub, Hilbert, Grossman, and Malamud before him at the time the invention was made to modify the user interface of Rathbone, Straub, Hilbert, and Grossman to include the group project functionality of Grossman, in order to obtain a start control displayed on the desktop page that is user-selectable to initiate that multiple applications start together at approximately a same time, the start control being configured to enable the user to select groups of applications to start together that were executing when a previous computing session was discontinued, that are often selected for use by the user, that were recently selected for use by the user, and that are most used by the user. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of improving the amount of time a user must spend opening applications of interest, as seen in col. 1, lines 20-23.

Claims 2 and 8: Hilbert discloses a user interface and method as recited in claim 1 and 7, further disclose the user-identifiable indicator is a user name corresponding to the selectable logon control for a user identified by the user name, and wherein the user name is displayed uninterrupted throughout the transition from the logon page to the desktop page (see Fig. 4, ¶ 0076). Straub further teaches that the desktop image may be any graphical image selected by a user, as shown *supra*.

Claims 3 and 9: Hilbert discloses a user interface as recited in claim 1 and 7, further disclose the user-identifiable indicator is an image corresponding to the selectable logon control, and wherein the image is displayed uninterrupted throughout the transition from the logon page to

the desktop page (see Fig. 4, ¶ 0076). Straub further teaches that the desktop image may be any graphical image selected by a user, as shown *supra*.

Claim 4: Hilbert discloses a user interface as recited in claim 1, and further discloses the user-identifiable image corresponding to the selectable logon control (see Fig. 4, ¶ 0076). Straub further teaches that the desktop image may be any graphical image selected by a user, as shown *supra*. As such, Straub teaches the image transforming to a full-size page display while being displayed uninterrupted throughout the transition from the logon page to the desktop page, as the Windows 95 operating system disclosed in Straub is well-known to include desktop customization features that allow a user to select how the preferred desktop image is displayed, typically in either a "centered", "tiled", or "stretched" (i.e. full-size page display) mode.

Claim 5: Hilbert discloses a user interface as recited in claim 1, and further discloses the user-identifiable image corresponding to the selectable logon control (see Fig. 4, ¶ 0076). Straub further teaches that the desktop image may be any graphical image selected by a user, as shown *supra*. As such, Straub teaches the user-identifiable indicator as a portion of an image corresponding to the selectable logon control, and the portion of the image being displayed uninterrupted throughout the transition from the logon page to the desktop page.

Claims 6: Rathbone discloses a user interface as recited in claim 1, wherein the logon page is further configured to display the one or more selectable logon controls each having corresponding user information Hilbert further teaches the transition being further configured to display the user information corresponding to the selectable logon control uninterrupted

throughout the transition (Fig. 4, ¶ 0076).

Claim 10: Rathbone discloses a method as recited in claim 7, wherein displaying the logon page includes displaying the logon page of the one or more selectable logon controls that each have corresponding user information (Figure 10-12: shows Current user's name, Browse the Web with Internet Explorer, etc.). Hilbert teaches the transitioning includes displaying the user information corresponding to the selectable logon control uninterrupted throughout the transitioning from the logon page to the desktop page (Figure 4, ¶ 0076). Straub further teaches that the desktop image may be any graphical image selected by a user, as shown *supra*.

Claim 12: Rathbone discloses a user interface comprising: a logon page configured to display one or more selectable logon controls each having a corresponding user-identifiable indicator (Figure 4-1).

Rathbone further teaches a desktop page configured to display in response to a selectable logon control being selected, the desktop page further configured to display user selectable controls in one or more regions of the desktop page and display the user identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control (taught as the icon and name of the user "Andy Rathbone", displayed in the start menu of the desktop).

However, Rathbone fails to explicitly teach the desktop page being further configured to persistently display the user identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control from display of the logon page to display of the desktop page.

Straub teaches a system for updating themes for an operating system, such as Windows XP as disclosed by Rathbone. Furthermore, Straub teaches a desktop page being further

configured to persistently display the user identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control (taught as the ability to customize [i.e. "further configure"] a desktop background to display any graphic image selected by a user, which would include said user-identifiable indicator, at col. 2, lines 20-29). By configuring the background to display the user-identifiable indicator, Straub thus teaches the claimed persistent display of said indicator.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Rathbone and Straub before him to customize the desktop background of Rathbone with the user-identifiable indicator through the customization technique of Straub. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of enhancing a user's experience through increased customization. See Straub, col. 2, lines 20-22.

However, Rathbone and Straub fail to explicitly teach a start page configured to display before the desktop page and in response to the selectable logon control being selected on the logon page, the start page further configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control and display one or more of the user selectable controls from any of the one or more regions of the desktop page, and further fail to explicitly teach a transition from the logon page to the start page, the transition configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control uninterrupted throughout the transition and to display elimination of non-selected selectable logon controls.

Hilbert teaches a system for providing a logon to a multi-user device similar to that of Rathbone and Straub. Furthermore, Hilbert teaches a start page configured to display before the desktop page and in response to the selectable logon control being selected on the logon page, the start page further configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control and display one or more of the user selectable controls from any of the one or more regions of the desktop page (taught as the "portal" page 500 that is displayed

before a user accesses the desktop page, at ¶ 0077 and seen in Fig. 5). Hilbert further teaches a transition from a logon screen (Fig. 3) to the start page, the transition configured to display after the selectable logon control has been selected but prior to display of the desktop page, the transition further configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control uninterrupted throughout the transition, (as can be seen at Fig. 4 and ¶ 0076). The examiner further contends that as Rathbone shows a plurality of selectable logon controls (Fig. 4-1), in combination with the single user display on a transition as in Hilbert (Figs. 3 and 4) one would necessarily obtain a transition page that displays elimination of non-selected selectable logon controls.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Rathbone, Straub and Hilbert before him at the time the invention was made to modify the logon and desktop of Rathbone and Straub to include the desktop page and start page of Hilbert. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of further personalizing a user interface. See Hilbert, ¶ 0007.

Rathbone, Straub, and Hilbert fail to explicitly teach wherein the displayed elimination of non-selected selectable logon controls is a gradual elimination. Grossman teaches a system for displaying selectable controls similar to that of Rathbone, Straub, and Hilbert. Furthermore, Grossman teaches the gradual elimination of such controls (taught as the fading of icons which have not been recently used from the display, as disclosed at col. 9, line 43 through col. 10, line 48).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Rathbone, Straub, Hilbert, and Grossman before him at the time the invention was made to modify the interface of Rathbone, Straub, and Hilbert to include the icon fading of Grossman, in order to obtain an interface wherein the displayed elimination of non-selected

selectable logon controls is a gradual elimination. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of "cleaning up" the computer display. See Grossman, col. 9, lines 43-48.

Rathbone, Straub, Hilbert and Grossman fail to explicitly teach a start control displayed on the desktop page that is user-selectable to initiate that multiple applications start together at approximately a same time, the start control being configured to enable the user to select groups of applications to start together that were executing when a previous computing session was discontinued, that are often selected for use by the user, that were recently selected for use by the user, and that are most used by the user.

Malamud teaches a system for manipulating applications and windows utilizing display controls similar to that of Rathbone, Straub, Hilbert, and Grossman. Furthermore, Malamud teaches a user-selectable control capable of starting a plurality of applications together (taught as the use of project groups containing a plurality of windows of applications, at col. 2, lines 43-60, the project folder icon and window being capable of instantiating all project windows at approximately the same time, at seen through the "Open Project" function of col. 4, lines 22-37). Malamud further allows for the configuration of a project in a variety of ways, as a user sees fit, through the customization of project groups as seen in col. 6, line 35 through col. 7, line 43. Such customization allows for the configuration of groups of applications as claimed, such as programs "that were executing when a previous computing session was discontinued, that are often selected for use by the user, that were recently selected for use by the user, and that are most used by the user".

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Rathbone, Straub, Hilbert, Grossman, and Malamud before him at the time the invention was made to modify the user interface of Rathbone, Straub, Hilbert, and Grossman to

include the group project functionality of Grossman, in order to obtain a start control displayed on the desktop page that is user-selectable to initiate that multiple applications start together at approximately a same time, the start control being configured to enable the user to select groups of applications to start together that were executing when a previous computing session was discontinued, that are often selected for use by the user, that were recently selected for use by the user, and that are most used by the user. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of improving the amount of time a user must spend opening applications of interest, as seen in col. 1, lines 20-23.

Claim 21: Rathbone discloses a method, comprising: a logon page configured to display one or more selectable logon controls each having a corresponding user-identifiable indicator (Figure 4-1).

Rathbone further teaches a desktop page configured to display in response to a selectable logon control being selected, the desktop page further configured to display user selectable controls in one or more regions of the desktop page and display the user identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control (taught as the icon and name of the user "Andy Rathbone", displayed in the start menu of the desktop).

However, Rathbone fails to explicitly teach the desktop page being further configured to persistently display the user identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control from display of the logon page to display of the desktop page.

Straub teaches a system for updating themes for an operating system, such as Windows XP as disclosed by Rathbone. Furthermore, Straub teaches a desktop page being further configured to persistently display the user identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control (taught as the ability to customize [i.e. "further configure"] a desktop background to

display any graphic image selected by a user, which would include said user-identifiable indicator, at col. 2, lines 20-29). By configuring the background to display the user-identifiable indicator, Straub thus teaches the claimed persistent display of said indicator.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Rathbone and Straub before him to customize the desktop background of Rathbone with the user-identifiable indicator through the customization technique of Straub. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of enhancing a user's experience through increased customization. See Straub, col. 2, lines 20-22.

However, Rathbone and Straub fail to explicitly teach a start page configured to display before the desktop page and in response to the selectable logon control being selected on the logon page, the start page further configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control and display one or more of the user selectable controls from any of the one or more regions of the desktop page, and further fail to explicitly teach a transition from the start page to the desktop page, the transition configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control uninterrupted throughout the transition and to display elimination of non-selected selectable logon controls.

Hilbert teaches a system for providing a logon to a multi-user device similar to that of Rathbone and Straub. Furthermore, Hilbert teaches a start page configured to display before the desktop page and in response to the selectable logon control being selected on the logon page, the start page further configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control and display one or more of the user selectable controls from any of the one or more regions of the desktop page (taught as the "portal" page 500 that is displayed before a user accesses the desktop page, at ¶ 0077 and seen in Fig. 5). Therefore, a combination of Rathbone, Straub, and Hilbert would necessarily teach a transition from the start

page to the desktop page while displaying the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control uninterrupted throughout the transitioning. The examiner further contends that as Rathbone shows a plurality of selectable logon controls (Fig. 4-1), in combination with the single user display on a transition as in Hilbert (Figs. 3 and 4) one would necessarily obtain a transition page that displays elimination of non-selected selectable logon controls.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Rathbone, Straub and Hilbert before him at the time the invention was made to modify the logon and desktop of Rathbone and Straub to include the desktop page and start page of Hilbert. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of further personalizing a user interface. See Hilbert, ¶ 0007.

Rathbone, Straub, and Hilbert fail to explicitly teach wherein the displayed elimination of non-selected selectable logon controls is a gradual elimination. Grossman teaches a system for displaying selectable controls similar to that of Rathbone, Straub, and Hilbert. Furthermore, Grossman teaches the gradual elimination of such controls (taught as the fading of icons which have not been recently used from the display, as disclosed at col. 9, line 43 through col. 10, line 48).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Rathbone, Straub, Hilbert, and Grossman before him at the time the invention was made to modify the interface of Rathbone, Straub, and Hilbert to include the icon fading of Grossman, in order to obtain an interface wherein the displayed elimination of non-selected selectable logon controls is a gradual elimination. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of "cleaning up" the computer display. See Grossman, col. 9, lines 43-48.

Rathbone, Straub, Hilbert and Grossman fail to explicitly teach enabling, by the computing device, a user to initiate that multiple applications start together at approximately a same time, the enabling including enabling the user to select, groups of applications to start together that were executing when a previous computing session was discontinued, that are often selected for use by the user, that were recently selected for use by the user, and that are most used by the user.

Malamud teaches a system for manipulating applications and windows utilizing display controls similar to that of Rathbone, Straub, Hilbert, and Grossman. Furthermore, Malamud teaches a user-selectable control capable of starting a plurality of applications together (taught as the use of project groups containing a plurality of windows of applications, at col. 2, lines 43-60, the project folder icon and window being capable of instantiating all project windows at approximately the same time, at seen through the "Open Project" function of col. 4, lines 22-37). Malamud further allows for the configuration of a project in a variety of ways, as a user sees fit, through the customization of project groups as seen in col. 6, line 35 through col. 7, line 43. Such customization allows for the configuration of groups of applications as claimed, such as programs "that were executing when a previous computing session was discontinued, that are often selected for use by the user, that were recently selected for use by the user, and that are most used by the user".

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Rathbone, Straub, Hilbert, Grossman, and Malamud before him at the time the invention was made to modify the user interface of Rathbone, Straub, Hilbert, and Grossman to include the group project functionality of Grossman, in order to obtain enabling, by the computing device, a user to initiate that multiple applications start together at approximately a same time, the enabling including enabling the user to select, groups of applications to start

together that were executing when a previous computing session was discontinued, that are often selected for use by the user, that were recently selected for use by the user, and that are most used by the user. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of improving the amount of time a user must spend opening applications of interest, as seen in col. 1, lines 20-23.

Claims 11 and 30: Rathbone discloses one or more computer readable media comprising computer executable instructions that, when executed, direct a computing device to perform the method of claims 7 and 21 (Figure 4-1).

Claim 22: Hilbert discloses a user interface further comprising a transition from the logon page to the start page, the transition configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control uninterrupted throughout the transition (Figure 4, ¶ 0076).

Claim 14: Hilbert discloses a user interface further comprising a transition from the start page to the desktop page, the transition configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control uninterrupted throughout the transition (Figure 4, ¶ 0076).

Claims 15 and 24: Hilbert discloses a user interface further comprising: a first transition from the logon page to the start page, the first transition configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control uninterrupted throughout the first transition (the "sensing" transition of Fig. 3) and a second transition from the start page to the

desktop page, the second transition configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control uninterrupted throughout the second transition (the "loading" transition of Fig. 4).

Claims 16 and 25: Hilbert discloses a user interface, method, and one or more computer readable media, as recited in claim 12, 21 and 31, the desktop page is further configured to display regional information in one or more of the regions of the desktop page, and wherein the start page is further configured to display the regional information from any of the one or more regions of the desktop page (see ¶¶ 0077 and 0078).

Claims 17 and 26: Rathbone discloses a user interface, method, and one or more computer readable media, as recited in claim 12, 21 and 31, the user-identifiable indicator is a user name corresponding to the selectable logon control for a user identified by the user name (Figure 4-3: "Andy Rathbone"). Hilbert further teaches the user name being displayed uninterrupted throughout a first transition from the logon page to the start page and continues to be displayed uninterrupted throughout a second transition from the start page to the desktop page (Fig. 4, ¶¶ 0076). Straub further teaches that the desktop image may be any graphical image selected by a user, as shown *supra*.

Claims 18 and 27: Hilbert discloses a user interface, method, and one or more computer readable media, as recited in claim 12, 21 and 31, the user-identifiable indicator is an image corresponding to the selectable logon control, and wherein the image is displayed uninterrupted throughout a first transition from the logon page to the start page and continues to be displayed uninterrupted throughout a second transition from the start page to the desktop page (Figure 4,

¶ 0076).

Claims 19 and 28: Rathbone discloses a user interface, method, and one or more computer readable media, as recited in claim 12, 21 and 31, the logon page is further configured to display the one or more selectable logon controls each having corresponding user information (Figure 4-3: "Kitty"). Hilbert further teaches the user information corresponding to the selectable logon control being displayed uninterrupted throughout a first transition from the logon page to the start page and continues to be displayed uninterrupted throughout a second transition from the start page to the desktop page (Figure 4, ¶ 0076).

Claims 20 and 29: Rathbone discloses a user interface, method, and one or more computer readable media, as recited in claim 12, 21 and 31, the desktop page includes at least one of a taskbar region, a sidebar region, and a start menu region, and wherein the start page is further configured to display the one or more user selectable controls from any of the taskbar region, sidebar region, and start menu region of the desktop page (Figure 10-14, further seen in Figure 6 of Hilbert).

Claims 31-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rathbone, in view of Straub, further in view of Hilbert, and Further in view of Malamud.

Claim 31: Rathbone discloses computer readable media, comprising: a logon page configured to display one or more selectable logon controls each having a corresponding user-identifiable

indicator (Figure 4-1).

Rathbone further teaches a desktop page configured to display in response to a selectable logon control being selected, the desktop page further configured to display user selectable controls in one or more regions of the desktop page and display the user identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control (taught as the icon and name of the user "Andy Rathbone", displayed in the start menu of the desktop).

However, Rathbone fails to explicitly teach the desktop page being further configured to persistently display the user identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control.

Straub teaches a system for updating themes for an operating system, such as Windows XP as disclosed by Rathbone. Furthermore, Straub teaches a desktop page being further configured to persistently display the user identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control (taught as the ability to customize [i.e. "further configure"] a desktop background to display any graphic image selected by a user, which would include said user-identifiable indicator, at col. 2, lines 20-29). By configuring the background to display the user-identifiable indicator, Straub thus teaches the claimed persistent display of said indicator.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Rathbone and Straub before him to customize the desktop background of Rathbone with the user-identifiable indicator through the customization technique of Straub. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of enhancing a user's experience through increased customization. See Straub, col. 2, lines 20-22.

However, Rathbone and Straub fail to explicitly teach a start page configured to display before the desktop page and in response to the selectable logon control being selected on the logon page, the start page further configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control and display one or more of the user selectable

controls from any of the one or more regions of the desktop page, and further fail to explicitly teach a transition from the logon page to the start page, the transition configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control uninterrupted throughout the transition and to display elimination of non-selected selectable logon controls.

Hilbert teaches a system for providing a logon to a multi-user device similar to that of Rathbone and Straub. Furthermore, Hilbert teaches a start page configured to display before the desktop page and in response to the selectable logon control being selected on the logon page, the start page further configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control and display one or more of the user selectable controls from any of the one or more regions of the desktop page (taught as the "portal" page 500 that is displayed before a user accesses the desktop page, at ¶ 0077 and seen in Fig. 5). Hilbert further teaches a transition from a logon screen (Fig. 3) to the start page, the transition configured to display after the selectable logon control has been selected but prior to display of the desktop page, the transition further configured to display the user-identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control uninterrupted throughout the transition, (as can be seen at Fig. 4 and ¶ 0076). The examiner further contends that as Rathbone shows a plurality of selectable logon controls (Fig. 4-1), in combination with the single user display on a transition as in Hilbert (Figs. 3 and 4) one would necessarily obtain a transition page that displays elimination of non-selected selectable logon controls.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Rathbone, Straub and Hilbert before him at the time the invention was made to modify the logon and desktop of Rathbone and Straub to include the desktop page and start page of Hilbert. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of further personalizing a user interface. See Hilbert, ¶ 0007.

Rathbone, Straub, and Hilbert fail to explicitly teach enabling, by the computing device, a user to initiate that multiple applications start together at approximately a same time, the enabling including enabling the user to select, groups of applications to start together that were executing when a previous computing session was discontinued, that are often selected for use by the user, that were recently selected for use by the user, and that are most used by the user.

Malamud teaches a system for manipulating applications and windows utilizing display controls similar to that of Rathbone, Straub, and Hilbert. Furthermore, Malamud teaches a user-selectable control capable of starting a plurality of applications together (taught as the use of project groups containing a plurality of windows of applications, at col. 2, lines 43-60, the project folder icon and window being capable of instantiating all project windows at approximately the same time, at seen through the "Open Project" function of col. 4, lines 22-37). Malamud further allows for the configuration of a project in a variety of ways, as a user sees fit, through the customization of project groups as seen in col. 6, line 35 through col. 7, line 43. Such customization allows for the configuration of groups of applications as claimed, such as programs "that were executing when a previous computing session was discontinued, that are often selected for use by the user, that were recently selected for use by the user, and that are most used by the user".

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Rathbone, Straub, Hilbert, and Malamud before him at the time the invention was made to modify the user interface of Rathbone, Straub, and Hilbert to include the group project functionality of Grossman, in order to obtain enabling, by the computing device, a user to initiate that multiple applications start together at approximately a same time, the enabling including enabling the user to select, groups of applications to start together that were executing when a previous computing session was discontinued, that are often selected for use by the user, that

were recently selected for use by the user, and that are most used by the user. One would have been motivated to make such a combination for the advantage of improving the amount of time a user must spend opening applications of interest, as seen in col. 1, lines 20-23.

Claim 32: Hilbert discloses a user interface, method, and one or more computer readable media, as recited in claim 12, 21 and 31, the desktop page is further configured to display regional information in one or more of the regions of the desktop page, and wherein the start page is further configured to display the regional information from any of the one or more regions of the desktop page (see ¶ 0077 and 0078).

Claims 33: Rathbone discloses a user interface, method, and one or more computer readable media, as recited in claim 12, 21 and 31, the desktop page includes at least one of a taskbar region, a sidebar region, and a start menu region, and wherein the start page is further configured to display the one or more user selectable controls from any of the taskbar region, sidebar region, and start menu region of the desktop page (Figure 10-14, further seen in Figure 6 of Hilbert).

Claim 34: Rathbone discloses a user interface, method, and one or more computer readable media, as recited in claim 12, 21 and 31, the user-identifiable indicator is a user name corresponding to the selectable logon control for a user identified by the user name (Figure 4-3: "Andy Rathbone"). Hilbert further teaches the user name being displayed uninterrupted throughout a first transition from the logon page to the start page and continues to be displayed uninterrupted throughout a second transition from the start page to the desktop page (Fig. 4, ¶

0076). Straub further teaches that the desktop image may be any graphical image selected by a user, as shown *supra*.

Claim 35: Hilbert discloses a user interface, method, and one or more computer readable media, as recited in claim 12, 21 and 31, the user-identifiable indicator is an image corresponding to the selectable logon control, and wherein the image is displayed uninterrupted throughout a first transition from the logon page to the start page and continues to be displayed uninterrupted throughout a second transition from the start page to the desktop page (Figure 4, ¶ 0076).

Claim 36: Rathbone discloses a user interface, method, and one or more computer readable media, as recited in claim 12, 21 and 31, the logon page is further configured to display the one or more selectable logon controls each having corresponding user information (Figure 4-3: "Kitty"). Hilbert further teaches the user information corresponding to the selectable logon control being displayed uninterrupted throughout a first transition from the logon page to the start page and continues to be displayed uninterrupted throughout a second transition from the start page to the desktop page (Figure 4, ¶ 0076).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 29 October 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's argument that Rathbone, Straub, and Hilbert fail to teach "and persistently display the user identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control from display of the logon page to display of the desktop page" (¶ 0010), the examiner

respectfully disagrees. When viewed in light of this combination, Straub provides for the persistent display of the user identifiable indicator as set forth by the examiner, in that Straub allows for the user to select any graphic image to be displayed as the background of the desktop (col. 2, lines 27-29), such as the user identifiable indicator found in Rathbone. Thus, as Rathbone teaches the display of a user-identifiable indicator in a logon page, Hilbert teaches the display of the user-identifiable indicator in a transition page, and Straub teaches the display of the user-identifiable indicator as the desktop background in the desktop page, the combination of Rathbone, Straub, and Hilbert teach the claimed limitation "and persistently display the user identifiable indicator corresponding to the selectable logon control from display of the logon page to display of the desktop page".

With further respect to Applicant's arguments that the applied references fail to teach the newly amended limitation "and to gradually display elimination of non-selected selectable logon controls", the examiner contends that the newly cited Grossman reference provides a teaching of such a limitation. The examiner further notes that no support in the specification exists for the inclusion of such a limitation, as the specification at ¶ 0020 merely states that "the selectable logon controls that are not selected can be eliminated from the display utilizing any number of methods and techniques to visually animate the transition".

Applicant's further arguments with respect to claims 1-12, 14-22, and 24-36 are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL ROSWELL whose telephone number is (571)272-4055. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 - 6:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kieu Vu can be reached on (571) 272-4057. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Michael Roswell /MICHAEL ROSWELL/
Primary Examiner, GAU 2173
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